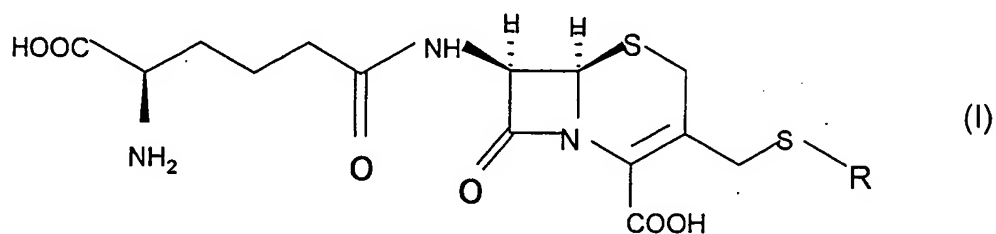
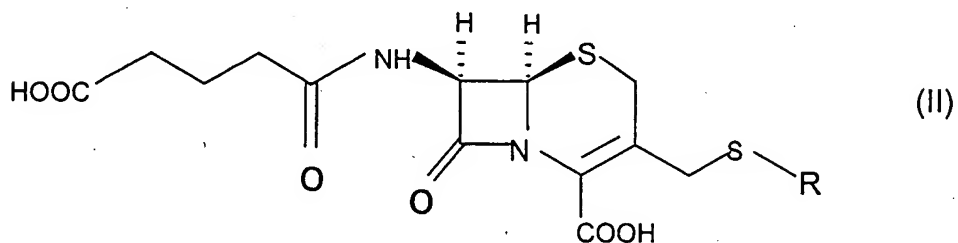


Abstract

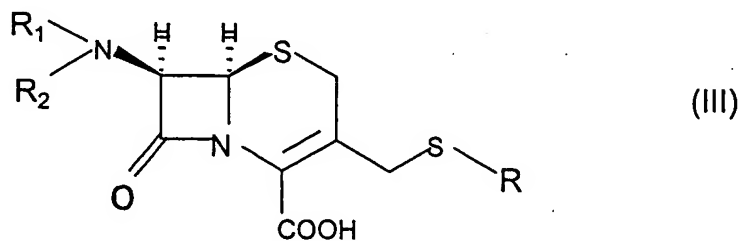
An enzymatic process for preparing 3-thiolated 7-aminocephalosporanic acid derivatives comprises the steps of enzymatically converting a 3-thiolated cephalosporin C of the formula I:



to form a 3-thiolated -glutaryl-7-ACA of the formula II



and enzymatically converting a compound of formula II to form a 3-thiolated-7-ACA of the formula III



wherein R is a heterocyclic group comprising at least one nitrogen atom and R₁ and R₂ are both hydrogen atoms or one of them is a hydrogen atom and the other is an acyl donor.